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Viewing cable 08MANAGUA848, NICARAGUA: ORTEGA USES THE "S" WORD

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags [#cablegate](#) and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. [#08MANAGUA848](#).

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
08MANAGUA848	2008-07-02 22:20	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Managua

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-30/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2758456.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-30/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2758467.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-30/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2758468.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-30/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2758464.aspx>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4103/la-embusa-y-el-gabinete-de-ortega>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4104/d-rsquo-escoto-en-onu-ldquo-un-desafio-de-ortega-a-ee-uu-rdquo>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4102/estrada-y-la-ldquo-doble-cara-rdquo-ante-ee-uu>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3966/la-ldquo-injerencia-rdquo-de-ee-uu-en-el-2006>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-23/Mundo/Relacionados/Mundo2758764.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-23/Mundo/NotaPrincipal/Mundo2758753.aspx>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4041/millones-de-dolares-sin-control-y-a-discrecion>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4040/la-ldquo-injerencia-rdquo-de-venezuela-en-2006>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4047/rodrigo-barreto-enviado-de-ldquo-vacaciones-rdquo>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-16/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2757239.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-16/Mundo/NotaPrincipal/Mundo2746658.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-16/Mundo/Relacionados/Mundo2757244.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-16/Mundo/Relacionados/Mundo2746673.aspx>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3991/dra-yadira-centeno-desmiente-cable-diplomatico-eeuu>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3968/pellas-pronostico-a-eeuu-victoria-de-ortega-en-2006>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3967/barreto-era-ldquo-fuente-confiable-rdquo-para-eeuu>

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2833
INFO WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE
CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
NSC WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
USS KEARSARGE IMMEDIATE
COMPHIBRON EIGHT IMMEDIATE
CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL//J2,J3,J5 IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 000848

DEPT FOR WHA/CEN NYMAN AND GREENE
DEPT FOR INR/IAA EMERSON
DEPT FOR USOAS
NSC FOR ALVARADO
USS KEARSARGE FOR COMMODORE PONDS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/01/2018

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SUBJECT: NICARAGUA: ORTEGA USES THE "S" WORD

REF: A. 2008 MANAGUA 573

[1](#)B. 2008 MANAGUA 350

Classified By: Ambassador Paul Trivelli, Reasons 1.4 (b and d)

[1](#)1. (C) SUMMARY: The week of June 23 saw three developments that may indicate a troubling and explicit ideological shift by the government of Nicaragua (GON). President Daniel Ortega of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), issued a decree granting his wife, Rosario Murillo, control over all social programs and institutions of the State, including the Social Security Institute (INSS), making her, in effect, what the press has termed "co-president." Ortega's son, Juan Carlos, issued a rare open letter to the youth of Nicaragua calling for the end of the political pact between Ortega and the ex-president and convict Arnoldo Aleman, characterizing it as a "dinosaur", and encouraging youth to seize power through the Citizen Power Councils (CPCs). Finally, Ortega publicly announced his intention to return the country to "socialism." These three incidents suggest further consolidation of Ortega's personal power via "direct democracy." END SUMMARY

Co-Presidenta

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[1](#)2. (U) On Friday June 13, 2008 Presidential Decree No. 26-2008 appeared in "La Gaceta" granting Ortega's wife, Rosario Murillo, control over all social programs and institutions of the State as well as the Social Security Institute (INSS). The Nicaraguan press subsequently dubbed Murillo "co-president," given Ortega's statement that fifty percent of the power of the government resides in his wife's management of public policy. Murillo is also the coordinator for the Citizen Power Councils(REF A). Through this decree, Ortega essentially fused management of the CPCs with government social programs, further blurring the distinction between government, CPCs and the party.

Citizen Power instead of the Pacto

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[1](#)3. (C) On June 23, Juan Carlos Ortega Murillo, son of the presidential duo, issued a rare open letter to the Nicaraguan youth, published on the presidential website, in which he pronounced the pact ("el pacto") between the Constitutional Liberal Party (PLC) and the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) a "dinosaur" whose usefulness had come to an end. The missive, entitled "Rebellious Youth" called on youth to reject "el pacto" (REF B), terming it a relic of "an antiquated representative democracy," to be replaced by the CPCs (REF A). This formulation represents the first open hint by the Ortega administration that collaboration with the PLC may be nearing an end. The transcript of the letter as well

as a short biography of Juan Carlos have been sent to WHA/CEN.

Deja Vu? Ortega Espouses Socialism

14. (U) As if to drive home the true meaning of both his son's words and the decree, in a speech Monday, June 23, Ortega told FSLN supporters that "socialism" was the only way Nicaragua can solve its social problems and "confront savage capitalism." To carry out what he termed "a political-ideological project", Ortega named Carlos Fonseca Teran, the son of FSLN founder Carlos Fonseca Amador as the political secretary of the FSLN in the department of Leon. Notably, in the same speech, Ortega again denounced the media for criticizing his administration. He asserted that the Revolution "is exposed to insults and slander of all kinds" and that people should not be fooled by what they hear or see in the press as the media represents the "oligarchy." Despite his regular criticism of market-based economies, Ortega's Monday night speech was the first time during this administration he has openly espoused socialism for Nicaragua.

Comment

15. (C) Given the control that Rosario Murillo already holds over the CPCs and other aspects of day-to-day governmental affairs, her new administrative position and her son's articulation of FSLN re-evaluation of the "pacto", may foreshadow a potential future shift away from the power-sharing agreement with the PLC towards more direct control of government through the CPC's. As municipal elections in November loom, and with three of the main rival democratic parties now eliminated, the "pacto" may indeed become ever more irrelevant to Ortega. These three incidents suggest further consolidation of Ortega's personal power via "direct democracy."

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